

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer, comprising  
~~said degradable polymer being~~ a polymer polymerized from  
  
at least one trifunctional or higher functional initiator  
  
at least two different monomers forming the backbone of the polymer and  
  
at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of carbonate monomers.
2. (Original) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1,  
wherein said at least two different monomers are cyclic.
3. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2,  
wherein the at least two different monomers forming the backbone of the polymer  
comprises at least one backbone monomer and at least one backbone comonomer,
4. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of~~  
~~the claims 1-3~~, wherein said at least one backbone comonomer imparts disorder in the  
backbone monomer chain.
5. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to any of the claims  
1-4, wherein the at least one backbone comonomer is effective to introduce amorphous  
~~amorphous~~ regions in the backbone monomer chain.

6. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-5~~,

wherein the at least two different monomers forming the backbone of the polymer are selected from the group consisting of lactone monomers.

7. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 6 ~~any of the claims 1-6~~, wherein the lactone monomers are chosen from the group consisting of  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone,  $\delta$ -valerolactone,  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone, and  $\beta$ -propiolactone, and mixtures thereof; and wherein the lactone monomers are optionally, also includes  $\epsilon$ -caprolactones,  $\delta$ -valerolactones,  $\gamma$ -butyrolactones, or  $\beta$ -propiolactones, ~~that have been~~ substituted with one or more alkyl or aryl substituents at any non-carbonyl carbon atoms along the ring, including compounds in which two substituents are contained on the same carbon atom and mixtures thereof.

8. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 3 ~~any of the claims 1-7~~, wherein the at least one backbone monomer comprises  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone.

9. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 3 ~~any of the claims 1-8~~, wherein the at least one backbone monomer has a Tg below  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; ~~preferably less than  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$ .~~

10. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 3 ~~any of the claims 1-9~~, wherein the at least one backbone comonomer comprises  $\delta$ -valerolactone.

11. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-10~~, wherein said degradable polymer is polymerized by metal catalyzed ring-opening.

12. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-11~~, wherein the at least one monomer is selected from the group consisting of cyclic carbonate monomers.

13. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-12~~, wherein the at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of carbonate monomers ~~is chosen from the group of~~ trimethylene carbonate, 5-alkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, 5,5-dialkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, or 5-alkyl-5-alkyloxycarbonyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, ethylene carbonate, 3-ethyl-3-hydroxymethyl trimethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, trimethylene carbonate, trimethylolpropane monocarbonate, 4,6-dimethyl-1,3-propylene carbonate, 2,2-dimethyl trimethylene carbonate, ~~and~~ 1,3-dioxepan-2-one and mixtures thereof.

14. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-13~~, wherein the at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of carbonate monomers provides a means for introducing additional branching, ~~and/or~~ crosslinking, or a combination thereof to the elastomeric polymer during ring-opening polymerization.

15. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-14~~, wherein said at least one trifunctional or higher functional initiator comprises a polyol.

16. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-15~~, wherein the initiator is selected from the group of glycerol, trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, ethoxylated or propoxylated polyamines, ~~and other~~ molecules with multiple hydroxyl or other reactive groups, ~~and other molecules with multiple hydroxyl or other reactive groups~~ and mixtures thereof.

17. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-16~~, wherein the degradable chewing gum polymer is polymerized from:

about 20 to 80 wt % of the at least one backbone monomer,

about 19.5 to 79.5 wt % of the at least one backbone comonomer,

about 0.5 to 25 wt % of the at least one monomer selected from the group of carbonate monomers.

18. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 17 ~~any of the claims 1-17~~, wherein the degradable chewing gum polymer is ~~moreover~~ polymerized from:

about 0.01 to 1.0 wt % of the at least one initiator.

19. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-18~~, wherein the chewing gum properties of the polymer are adjusted by selection of a suitable ~~order~~ functional number of the multifunctional initiator.

20. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-19~~, wherein the rheological properties of the degradable polymer is controlled by adjusting the functional number of initiator.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 6 ~~any of the claims 1-22~~, wherein the molecular weight of lactone monomers are within the range of 50-16000 g/mol, ~~preferably within the range of 100-3000 g/mol~~

24. (Currently amended) Degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-23~~, wherein the molecular weight of carbonate monomers are within the range of 50-15000 ~~preferably within the range of 100-2300 g/mol~~.

25. (Currently amended) Chewing gum comprising the degradable polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-24~~; and chewing gum ingredients.

26. (Original) Chewing gum according to claim 25, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise flavoring agents.

27. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 26 ~~any of claims 25 or 26~~, wherein said flavoring agents comprises natural and synthetic flavorings in the form of natural vegetable components, essential oils, essences, extracts, powders, including acids or ~~and~~ other substances capable of affecting the taste profile

28. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 26 ~~any of claims 25-27~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in an amount of 0.01 to about 30 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum.

29. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 26 ~~any of claims 25-28~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in an amount of 0.2 to about 4 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum

30. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 26 ~~any of claims 25-29~~, wherein said flavoring agent comprises water soluble ingredients.

31. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 30 ~~any of claims 25-30~~, wherein said water soluble flavoring agent comprises acids.

32. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 26 ~~any of claims 25-31~~, wherein said flavoring agent comprises water insoluble ingredients.

33. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 25-32~~, wherein said chewing gum ingredients ~~comprising~~ comprises sweeteners.

34. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 33 ~~any of claims 25-33~~, wherein said sweetener comprises bulk sweeteners.

35. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 34 ~~any of claims 25-34~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises bulk sweeteners in the amount of about 5 to about 95% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 20 to about 80% by weight of the chewing gum.~~

36. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 33 ~~any of claims 25-35~~, wherein said sweetener comprises high intensity sweeteners.

37. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 36 ~~any of claims 25-36~~, wherein the high intensity sweeteners comprises sucralose, aspartame, salts of acesulfame, alitame, saccharin and its salts, cyclamic acid and its salts, glycyrrhizin, dihydrochalcones, thaumatin, monellin, sterioside, alone or in combination.

38. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 36 ~~any of claims 25-37~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises high intensity sweeteners in an amount of about 0 to about 1% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 0.05 to about 0.5 % by weight of the chewing gum.~~

39. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 25-38~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one softener.

40. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 39 ~~any of claims 25-39~~, wherein the at least one softener comprises tallow, hydrogenated tallow, hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, cocoa butter, glycerol monostearate, glycerol triacetate, lecithin, mono-, di- and triglycerides, acetylated monoglycerides, fatty acids, - ~~such as~~ stearic acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, and linoleic acids, waxes, ~~PGE~~ poly glycol esters ~~or and~~ mixtures thereof.

41. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 39 ~~any of claims 25-40~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises softeners in the amount of about 0 to about 18% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 0 to about 12 % by weight of the~~ chewing gum.

42. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 25-41~~, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise active ingredients.

43. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 42 ~~any of claims 25–42,~~  
wherein said active ingredients ~~being~~ are selected from the group consisting of:  
 Acetaminophen, ~~Acetylsalicylsyre~~ Acetylsalicylic acid, Buprenorphine, Bromhexin,  
 Celcoxib, Codeine, Diphenhydramin, Diclofenac, Etoricoxib, Ibuprofen, Indometacin,  
 Ketoprofen, Lumiracoxib, Morphine, Naproxen, Oxycodon, Parecoxib, Piroxicam,  
~~Pseudoefedrin~~, Rofecoxib, Tenoxicam, Tramadol, Valdecoxib, Calciumcarbonat,  
 Magaldrate, Disulfiram, Bupropion, Nicotine, Azithromycin, Clarithromycin,  
 Clotrimazole, Erythromycin, Tetracycline, Granisetron, Ondansetron, Prometazin,  
 Tropisetron, Brompheniramine, Ceterizin, Ieco-Ceterizin, Chlorcyclizine,  
 Chlorpheniramin, Chlorpheniramin, Difenhydramine, Doxylamine, Fenofenadin,  
 Guaifenesin, Loratidin, des-Loratidin, Phenyltoloxamine, Promethazin, Pyridamine,  
 Terfenadin, Troxerutin, Methyldopa, Methylphenidate, Benzalcon. Chloride, Benzeth.  
 Chloride, Cetylpyrid. Chloride, Chlorhexidine, Ecabet-sodium, Haloperidol, Allopurinol,  
 Colchicine, Theophylline, Propanolol, Prednisolone, Prednisone, Fluoride, Urea,  
 Miconazole, Actot, Glibenclamide, Glipizide, Metformin, Miglitol, Repaglinide,  
 Rosiglitazone, Apomorphin, Cialis, Sildenafil, Vardenafil, Diphenoxylate, Simethicone,  
 Cimetidine, Famotidine, Ranitidine, Ratinidine, cetirizin, Loratadine, Aspirin,  
 Benzocaine, Dextrometorphan, Ephedrine, Phenylpropanolamine, Pseudoephedrine,  
 Cisapride, Domperidone, Metoclopramide, Acyclovir, Dioctylsulfosucc., Phenolphthalein,  
 Almotriptan, Eletriptan, Ergotamine, Migea, Naratriptan, Rizatriptan, Sumatriptan,  
 Zolmitriptan, Aluminium salts, Calcium salts, Ferro salts, Silver salts, Zinc-salte,  
 Amphotericin B, Chlorhexidine, Miconazole, Triamcinolonacetoneid, Melatonin,  
 Phenobarbital, Caffeine, Benzodiazepine, Hydroxyzine, Meprobamate, Phenothiazine,  
 Buclizine, Brometazine, Cinnarizine, Cyclizine, Difenhydramine, Dimenhydrinate,  
 Buflomedil, Amphetamine, Caffeine, Ephedrine, Orlistat, Phenylephrine,  
 Phenylpropanolamin, Pseudoephedrine, Sibutramin, Ketoconazole, Nitroglycerin,  
 Nystatin, Progesterone, Testosterone, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin A, Vitamin D,  
 Vitamin E, Pilocarpin, Aluminiumaminoacetat, Cimetidine, Esomeprazole, Famotidine,  
 Lansoprazole, Magnesiumoxide, Nizatide and/or Ratinidine or derivatives and mixtures  
 thereof.



44. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 25-43~~, wherein the chewing gum is substantially free of non-biodegradable polymers.

45. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 25-44~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler.

46. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 45 ~~any of claims 25-45~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler in an amount of about 0 to about 50% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 10 to about 40 % by weight of the chewing gum.~~

47. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 25-46~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one coloring agent.-

48. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 25-47~~, where the chewing gum is coated with an outer coating.

49. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 48 ~~any of claims 25-48~~, wherein the outer coating is a hard coating.

50. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 49 ~~any of claims 25-49~~, wherein the hard coating is a coating selected from the group consisting of a sugar coating, ~~and~~ a sugarless coating, and a combination thereof.

51. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 49 ~~any of claims 25-50~~, wherein the hard coating comprises 50 to 100% by weight of a polyol selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, maltitol, mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, lactitol and isomalt.

52. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 51 ~~any of claims 25-51~~, wherein the outer coating is an edible film comprising at least one component selected from the group consisting of an edible film-forming agent and a wax.

53. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 52 ~~any of claims 25-52~~, wherein the film-forming agent is selected from the group consisting of a cellulose derivative, a modified starch, a dextrin, gelatine, shellac, gum arabic, zein, a vegetable gum, a synthetic polymer and any combination thereof.

54. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 48 ~~any of claims 25-53~~, wherein the outer coating comprises at least one additive component selected from the group consisting of a binding agent, a moisture absorbing component, a film forming agent, a dispersing agent, an antisticking component, a bulking agent, a flavouring agent, a colouring agent, a pharmaceutically or cosmetically active component, a lipid component, a wax component, a sugar, an acid and an agent capable of accelerating the after-chewing degradation of the degradable polymer.

55. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 48 ~~any of claims 25-54~~, wherein the outer coating is a soft coating.

56. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 55 ~~any of claims 25-55~~, wherein the soft coating comprises a sugar free coating agent.

57. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 25-56~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises conventional chewing gum polymers or resins.

58. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 25-57~~, wherein the at least one biodegradable polymer comprises at least 5% of the chewing gum polymers.

59. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 25-58~~, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprises at least 25%, ~~preferably at least 50%~~ of the chewing gum polymers.

60. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 25-59~~, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprises at least 80%, ~~preferably at least 90%~~ of the chewing gum polymers.

61. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 25-60~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises

- said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer forming a plasticizer of the chewing gum and
- at least one non-biodegradable conventional elastomer..

62. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 25-61~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises

- said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer forming an elastomer of the chewing gum and
- at least one non-biodegradable conventional natural or synthetic resin.

63. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of the claims 25-62~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises

at least one biodegradable elastomer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum,

at least one biodegradable plasticizer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum and

at least one chewing gum ingredient chosen from the groups consisting of softeners, sweeteners, flavoring agents, active ingredients and fillers in the amount of about 2 to about 80% wt of the chewing gum.

64. (Currently amended) Gum base comprising at least one degradable chewing gum polymer according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-24~~.